

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 81 (currently amended): An energy delivery device for ablating biological tissue, comprising:

A flexible ablation assembly, comprising:

A flexible ablation device including a flexible body portion defining an outer surface and having at least one ablation element encased within the body portion therein; and

A means for directionally controlling ablation energy emitted therefrom.

Claim 82 (Previously amended): The device of claim 81, wherein the at least one ablation element is adapted to emit ablation energy sufficient to ablate biological tissue.

Claim 83 (Canceled)

Claim 84 (Currently amended): The device of claim ~~82~~ 83, wherein the at least one ablation element is flexible.

Claim 85 (Canceled)

Claim 86 (Currently amended): The device of claim ~~81~~ 83, wherein [[the ablation assembly further comprises an insulating element,]] the flexible body portion holds ~~insulating element holding~~ the ablation element in a fixed position relative to the outer emission surface.

Claim 87 (Canceled)

Claim 88 (Currently amended): The device of claim ~~81~~ 87, wherein the flexible body

portion insulating element is adapted to be substantially transparent to the ablation energy emitted therethrough by the at least one flexible ablation element.

Claim 89 (Original): The device of claim 88, wherein the means for directionally controlling the ablation energy is flexible.

Claim 90 (Currently amended): The device of claim ~~81~~ 87, wherein the means for directionally controlling the ablation energy is a shield device, whereby a portion of biological tissue adjacent to the outer emission surface of the flexible body portion is shielded from the ablation energy.

Claim 91 (Original): The device of claim 90, wherein the shield device is adapted to at least partially reflect ablation energy emitted by the at least one ablation element.

Claim 92 (Original): The device of claim 91, wherein the shield device is flexible.

Claim 93 (Original): The device of claim 92, wherein the at least one ablation element is an antenna adapted to emit electromagnetic energy.

Claim 94 (Original): The device of claim 93, wherein the at least one ablation element is adapted to emit electromagnetic energy in the microwave range.

Claim 95 (Original): The device of claim 94, wherein the electromagnetic energy is at about 434 MHz.

Claim 96 (Original): The device of claim 94, wherein the electromagnetic energy is at about 915 MHz.

Claim 97 (Original): The device of claim 94, wherein the electromagnetic energy is at about 2.45 GHz.

Claim 98 (Original): The device of claim 94, wherein the electromagnetic energy is at about 5.8 GHz.

Claim 99 (Original): The device of claim 94, wherein the antenna is a helical coil antenna.

Claim 100 (Original): The device of claim 94, wherein the antenna is a linear antenna.

Claim 101 (Original): The device of claim 90, wherein a longitudinal axis of the insulating element is generally coaxial with a longitudinal axis of the shield device.

Claim 102 (Original): The device of claim 81 further comprising a means for manual manipulation of the flexible ablation assembly.

Claim 103 (Original): The device of claim 102, wherein the manipulating means is a handle having proximal and distal ends, the flexible ablation assembly being operably attached to the distal end of the handle.

Claim 104 (Original): The device of claim 102, wherein the manipulating means is an elongated tubular member.

Claim 105 (Original): The device of claim 103 further comprising a shaft member operably disposed between the flexible ablation assembly and the handle.

Claim 106 (Original): The device of claim 105, wherein the shaft member is rigid.

Claim 107 (Original): The device of claim 106, wherein the shaft member is a metallic tube.

Claim 108 (Original): The device of claim 104, wherein the shaft member is malleable.

Claim 109 (Original): The device of claim 108, wherein the shaft member is a metallic tube.

Claim 110 (Original): The device of claim 108, wherein the shaft member is a coaxial cable.

Claim 111 (Currently amended): An energy delivery device for ablating biological tissue, comprising:

a flexible ablation assembly including a flexible body portion and having at least one ablation element encased within the body portion, the flexible body portion therein and defining an outer ~~emission~~ surface ~~from~~ through which ablation energy sufficient to ablate biological tissue, ~~[[is]]~~ emitted by the at least one ablation element, passes,

wherein the ablation assembly is adapted to be manipulated to one of a plurality of contact positions to generally conform the ablation surface to the biological tissue during tissue ablation.

Claim 112 (Withdrawn) A method of ablating tissue at a target tissue site, comprising the steps:

providing a flexible ablation device defining an outer ablation surface and comprising a means for directionally controlling ablation energy emitted therefrom;
manipulating the distal portion of the ablation device to generally conform the ablation surface to a tissue surface at the target tissue site;
applying ablation energy sufficient to ablate tissue at the target tissue site.

Claim 113 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 112, wherein the ablation device comprises at least one ablation element.

Claim 114 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 113, wherein the at least one ablation element is an antenna.

Claim 115 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 112, wherein the ablation energy is one or more energies from the group consisting of: radiofrequency, microwave, and cryogenic.

Claim 116 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 112, wherein the means for directionally controlling the ablation energy is a shield device adapted to direct the ablation energy in a single direction along a longitudinal axis of the ablation device, whereby the step of

applying ablation energy results in the creation of a continuous lesion.

Claim 117 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 116, wherein the step of applying ablation energy results in the isolation of at least one pulmonary vein from the epicardial surface of a patient's heart.

Claim 118 (Previously added): The device of claim 111, wherein the at least one ablation element is flexible.